IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of increasing healing of a heart wound in a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need thereof an ~~effective~~ amount of a thyroid hormone-lowering agent effective to decrease a level of a thyroid hormone in the mammal to a low normal level or to a below normal level, whereby healing of a heart wound in the mammal is increased relative to healing of a heart wound in a mammal to whom the thyroid hormone-lowering agent has not been administered.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is propylthiouracil.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is methimazole.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is carbamizole.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is radiolabeled iodide.

6-14. (canceled)

15. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a C57Bl/6 mouse.

16. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.

17. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the increased healing in the mammal comprises re-epithelialization.

18. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent

decreases T3 levels.

19. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent decreases T4 levels.

20. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent is administered prior to wounding.

21. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent is administered after wounding.

22. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent is administered concomitant with wounding.

23. (canceled)

24. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the heart wound is an ischemic infarct.

25. (new) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of detecting increased healing of the heart wound in the mammal.